

s have followed the track of the navigated the researches of the traveler, the enterprises of commerce, kindled lamp in the emigrant's home, and salvation to the perishing pagan. Mis-rendered theology more practical and ; have made good men more inclined to work for a world than to contend for

*Rev. S. Colley.*



## Communications.

## CHURCH RECORDS AND STATISTICS.

In a late Herald we find an essay on the "Duty of a Minister to his People," containing many valuable suggestions, in which the writer says, "Another duty which we owe to our people, as well as to the society, is to properly regulate the Church Books," and "to make it a duty to the minister to prepare an accurate and comprehensive Record of his people." In reference to the preparation of Church Records, he adds, "There should be accuracy, not guess work; honesty, not exaggeration."

These quotations and the thoughts found in connection with them, ought to be engraven upon the heart and conscience of every itinerant minister. Justice to our brethren in the ministry, as well as truth and honesty, demand that we "think on these things," and "do unto others as we would that they should do unto us."

I would not charge my brethren with intentional wrong or carelessness, but I must say, in all honesty, and in relation to these matters, the revision of our Church Records is often neglected, and, six, or eight years, and the names of persons who have died, removed, or withdrawn from the church, stand on the Records with nothing to show that they are no longer living, active members of the church, and in preparing the Conference Statistics, are counted and reported as such.

In some instances the names of persons on probation who have been continued and reported from year to year, who never professed to enjoy religion, and who have never been baptized, stand on the Records, and the minister, by signing the same, is guilty of a sin. We sometimes find many of these cases, especially when we succeed a "popular revival."

In some cases, if we do our duty, we are obliged to report ten or twenty per cent. less than we are accustomed to report. The "popular revival" is running down our administration; and, we fear, some have had so much regard for their reputation that they have perpetrated the evil.

Brothers, let us be honest, and trust our character as ministers, and our reputation as men, and as Christians, will be sustained by the truth, and not by the lies of a "popular revival."

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Lynn, March 10, 1860.

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some returning Americans who might affect a suitable protection and companionship for his wife and little ones. A proposal change for the better in the health of the little girl then led them to defer coming, but it turned out that it was but a supposition; and the wife and child were left to suffer the voyage immediately as the only hope of saving her.

Things had now reached a crisis, and the judgment of the mission was unanimous and decided that the family ought to leave, and that Brother Macley himself ought to accompany his wife and their little ones. They went aboard the good ship "Samuel Russell" on the 26th of November last, and on the 28th they were fully on their way home with the excellent Captain Winchell, who had his invalid wife on board.

The best of attentions were shown our missionary family; but their worst fears were realized in the case of their precious little Clara, for the captain was obliged to make the following entry upon the ship's book: "Died January 6, Clara Macley, aged 3 years and 2 months; her remains were brought to this port." That she sleeps not in the deep deep sea, is owing to the forethought and kindness of the excellent captain. May God's blessing be upon him and his!

Brother Macley and family—save the little boy—we are happy to say arrived in excellent health on the morning of March the second, and in time to be present at some missionary meetings on Sabbath, the fifth instant, of which we shall give further account. This brother has been absent from about thirty years, telling his wife, every evening, that he was on his way home, and that the morning star had just appeared. Yes, the day has broken! the rays of the Sun of Righteousness have, beyond any doubt, broken in upon the gloom of the darkness of the night, and the light of the day has shined upon the darkness of the night.

VERMONT—A preacher writes that his collection have been largely augmented by the circulation of the Missionary Advocate among his people. He has made and returned a full and complete Register for his people, and correct statistics for the Minutes of Conference, and to do all we can to prepare the way for our successor to be full and happy on the charges where we now labor.

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as indicated in the foregoing declaration, but that we will stand by the rights and interests of our people to the last extremity.

6. That our mission, as ministers of the New Testament, is to preach the Gospel of the Son of God both to master and slave, and to devote ourselves wholly to our appropriate work of winning souls to Christ.

7. That the publishing funds and establishments of the church are common property held in trust by the General Conference for our common and equal use.

8. That any such use of our common publishing funds, newspapers, periodicals, &c., as precludes our people from the benefits of them, while they are in no wise or illegitimate relation to the Union, but are faithful to its covenants, is an abuse of the trust.

The adoption of the Report is nearly equivalent to a withdrawal from the M. E. Church.

The East Baltimore Conference have chosen the following delegates: C. B. Tippet, H. Slicer, T. Mitchell, T. B. Sargent, G. Guier, George Hilditch, James H. Brown, &c. Resolved: James S. Sargent were members of the last General Conference.

A long debate arose on the East General Conference Resolution, in favor of Lay Delegation in the Conference, the most of the speaking being in its favor, but on taking a Yeas and Nays vote, it stood Yeas 42, Nays 106, which is a large vote in its favor, considering the nature of the Conference, so many would have anticipated.

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the way of life! My heart has ached when I have seen the large church (within a few steps from my dwelling) packed full of human beings who, I know, would listen to me were I permitted by the church authorities to address them. May God have the time when in these churches may be heard the voice of the preacher proclaiming the truth as it is in Jesus!

I am happy to report to you also another encouraging item of news. Regular public religious services, exclusively in the Bulgarian language, have been commenced. On Christmas day, I preached to a congregation of about fifteen persons, and the following Sabbath we had twenty-two in attendance. Yesterday, being a great festival, several were prevented from attending; we had, however, four or five, and went through our service as usual. Several persons came after we had closed. I have notified my acquaintances generally that we will continue regularly to have Bulgarian preaching every Sabbath at my house, and am invited to come and to bring others. I cannot say what will be the result. Murmuring and backbiting are beginning already to be heard from a certain quarter, and it is quite possible that these may increase until now will dare to attend our service. My object is, without controversy, merely to present the fundamental and essential truths of the gospel to the people. I leave the religious movement to the great God, and pray both preachers and hearers that God's name may be glorified in this land of darkness and superstition.

CHURCH ST. CHURCH, PORTLAND.  
We recently spent the Sabbath, the 4th inst., with the Chestnut Street Church, Portland, and were glad to see such an amount of strength and prosperity. The great expense of the building has been so far met, actually and prospectively, as to place them in easy circumstances, and the congregation is very large. The social meetings are also largely attended. Rev. H. B. Briggs, of the Portland Conference, was expected last Sabbath. He has relatives in Portland, and is well known there, and will meet a cordial reception. The East Baltimore Conference Record, a daily paper, gives the following notice of a sermon preached before the Conference on Sabbath evening by Mr. Briggs: "The Christian's Duty to his Country." It was a masterpiece of pulpit eloquence—a beautiful specimen of logical cabinet work, full of pathos and experimental truth, and elicited the most marked attention.

The East Baltimore Conference at its late session passed the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, we learn that it has been determined by the Presiding Bishop to transfer to the Maine Conference, our beloved brother, Rev. H. B. Briggs, of the Portland Conference, who has labored for nine years with great acceptance, Therefore

Resolved, That in parting with Mr. Briggs, we do so with regret, and with the assurance that his labors will be remembered by the church as a blessing to the country, and that his character as a minister of Christ and a Christian gentleman.

Resolved, That we cordially commend Rev. H. B. Briggs to the confidence and cordial regards of the minister and people of his new field of labor.

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